

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated December 20, 2006, claim 8 has been cancelled, and claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-7 and 9-16 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

II. Claim Amendments

Applicants' attorney has made amendments to the claims as indicated above. These amendments were made solely for the purpose of clarifying the language of the claims, and were not required for patentability or to distinguish the claims over the prior art.

III. Prior Art Rejections

On page (2) of the Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Masood et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,580,981 (Masood). However, on page (3) of the Office Action, claims 8-16 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner and formally recognizes the allowable subject matter of claims 8-16. Applicants have rewritten the claims to overcome the objections, and respectfully submit that all remaining claims are now in good order for allowance. Such amendments are not made for reasons of patentability, since the claims were allowable and not rejected, and are merely clarified in the rewriting of the claims in independent format or changing the dependency of the claim to depend from a patentable claim.

IV. Conclusion


In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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